

TUFOIC Newsletter

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PO Box 174, South Hobart, Tasmania, 7004. Australia.

Email tufoic@netspace.net.au

The UFO Scene

Although many reports of Nocturnal Lights are being made elsewhere in Australia, little has occurred on the local scene. However, there seem to be hardly any Close Encounter reports in recent times. Only a couple of sightings (see Tasmanian sightings) have been added to the total for this year.

Reports investigated as at early October stand at 91, with probable unexplained cases making up a mere 8.7%. This compares with 29% unexplained for the previous year.

Over a dozen reports so far have been due to space debris burn-up or meteors.

A recent case on September 11th at 8.16pm was of some interest. Two witnesses separated by many kilometres described the same unusual effect. One witness in Hobart, the other located in the Derwent Valley, both noticed the area around them lit up by flashes of light. A very bright light was then seen moving away towards the west. The Derwent Valley witness heard a rumbling noise after the light disappeared.

The noise was probably due to the fireball breaking up in the atmosphere. Surprisingly only one other witness contacted the Centre to report the phenomenon - maybe the thick cloud in some areas prevented many people from noticing the fireball.

The infamous "UFO Slime" material appeared again, this time at Brighton. Following the barking of her dog and a sound like a jet our Brighton witness found the jelly-like substance in the backyard. As in all the previous cases nothing could be done to determine the origin of the "Slime".

Recent Reports

Fishermen Sight Lights off West Coast. 23 June 7.30pm.

Point Hibbs on Tasmania's West Coast is a very lonely spot frequented only by fishermen and the odd bushwalker.

J and his father had anchored for the night close in the shelter of Bird Island, a small island just south of Point Hibbs. J was on deck when he first spotted a group of three lights out to the west at about a 20-degree elevation. The top light was red with two green lights below. Around the lights was a glowing area of light. Altogether the lights covered an area of about a 3/4 moon. J called his father up to see the lights, which were watched off and on by the witnesses for the next couple of hours.

The lights lost elevation during the period they were under observation and moved more to the north. At various times erratic movement was noted by J. The lights looked to move sideways, then performed a large anti-clockwise circle a number of times. Whilst moving on one circle the lights suddenly shot across from the one o'clock position to the 7 o'clock position.

Eventually the lights were low on the horizon, they moved down behind the hump on the island then back up again on a number of occasions before being finally lost from sight.

Heard of a sighting? Tell the centre about it.

Telephone Keith on [03] 62236009, or write to PO Box 174, South Hobart, 7004.

Something in the Huon Sky. September 10th 10.30pm.

It was school holidays and P of Port Huon had her friend over for the night. They were sleeping that night in the lounge room but having a talk first whilst lying down. It was then that P noticed a big light, large enough to have a boomerang type shape to it. The boomerang was multi coloured, being at various times, blue, yellow, green, and red. P and her friend were both amazed and scared, especially when P's friend pointed out a similar boomerang light close by in the sky. The first light let off a trail of sparks from the left side; they went downwards but faded out. The lights made sudden movements, moving around in an anti-clockwise movement, going up to the left and right, then dropping down again. The two friends watched the lights for some time before picking up courage to race through to call P's mother to come and have a "look".

P's mother reported the girls were excited and wide-eyed. She went to the lounge at once but there was no sign of the boomerang lights.

Yachtsman Sights UFO off Flinders Island. December 1987.

Mr W has reported sighting an erratic light whilst his yacht was anchored off East Kangaroo Island west of Flinders Island. Mr W writes that they anchored just on dusk and they went down in the cabin to make dinner. Mr W left the cabin and sat in the cockpit, shutting the companionway doors to exclude any light. After a short time he noticed what looked like a star which had moved relative to it's surrounding stars. This moving star was on a straight flight path from east to west and he assumed it was a satellite. The light then abruptly changed course to perform a series of zigzag movements. Then the light accelerated in a straight line towards the southern horizon having changed from its westerly path. It was travelling so fast as it neared the horizon that it just became a continuous streak of light. The whole event was over in 30 seconds.

Landing at Ringarooma in 1969.

Mrs G recently contacted the Centre to report a landing witnessed by her family when they lived in North East Tasmania. It was a clear starry night when her two brothers called out the family to have a look at a "funny moon".

Mrs G described the sighting. We all went out to look at a magnificent white light landing in the paddock across the road from our house. It had a bright green light on top and a red one below. It landed close to a clump of large gum trees and lit up the surrounding paddock as bright as day. I can recall no noise. Great puffs of what appeared to be steam or smoke seemed to hang from the trees.

The oval shaped object seemed to have portholes around the middle. Three smaller lights appeared from the side of the object and moved down to the ground. There seemed to be some shadowy movement at the base of the lights. After 20 minutes the object rose up, move across the paddock, then shot off into the sky at a speed that can only be imagined.

Know of any sightings in your area, new or old?

Contact Keith on [03] 6223 6009, or write to TUFOIC, PO Box 174, South Hobart. 7004.

We rely on members to let us know if anything happens in their locality. Don't assume we know all about it!

Other News

Ufo Halts Bus In Chile

On July 24, 1997, at 12:20 a.m., a bus carrying 42 passengers rumbled southward on the Panamerican Highway in northern Chile. The bus belonged to Buses Fenix Pullman Norte Ltda. and had left Arica at 9:30 p.m. bound for the capital, Santiago de Chile.

As the bus neared Cerro Moreno Mountain in Antofagasta, a city 880 kilometers (550 miles) north of Santiago, the vehicle suddenly lost all electrical power.

"At first we thought the bus's battery had gone dead," Victor Hugo Lizama, a passenger, told local newspaper La Cuarta. "The bus was totally dead. The driver just couldn't get it started. We started looking up in the sky, and we saw

four lights, three round ones, and the fourth one was a long cigar shape. All four were changing colors from violet to orange to intense silver-white."

"The cigar-shaped object moved, making an L trajectory," Lizama added, "while the three round objects stayed still. A few passengers went to a military base that's in Cerro Moreno and asked about the lights. The guards said they were just weather balloons."

A short while later, the lights abruptly disappeared. The driver turned the ignition key again. This time the engine kicked over, and the bus resumed its all-night journey to Santiago. (See the Chilean newspaper La Cuarta for July 25, 1997. Muchas gracias a Luis Sanchez Perry para esas noticias.)

Source: *UFO Roundup No. 32, August 10, 1997*

Crop Circles Appear In Saskatchewan

On August 7, 1997, three crop circles appeared in a wheat field on the Kawacatoose Indian Reserve in Panashi, near the town of Raymore, Saskatchewan (population 562). This was the first Canadian crop circle incident of 1997. Raymore is 53 kilometers (33 miles) north of Regina, the provincial capital. The formation at Panashi consisted of one large circle measuring 13 meters (40 feet) in diameter and two smaller satellite circles 1.3 meters (4 feet) in diameter. According to researcher Paul Anderson of Circles Phenomenon Research-Canada, they "looked like half of a Celtic cross design, with two circles missing."

Reporter Sarah McGrath of BBS-TV in Regina reported the discovery on Thursday, August 14.

Another crop circle at Panashi was reported on Monday, August 18. Both cases are being investigated by the local detachment of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Also investigating the Panashi circles is Daniel Clairmont, who last year worked on the crop-circle case in Rocanville, Saskatchewan.

(See the newspapers the Saskatoon Star-Phoenix for August 16, 1997 and the Regina Leader-Post for August 18, 1997.)

Source: *UFO Roundup No. 34, August 31, 1997*

Internet site: <http://www.digiserve.com/ufoinfo/roundup/>

Edited by Joseph Trainor

Skywatch

MERCURY The tiny planet is visible low in the western evening sky during November, reaching a greatest elongation from the Sun of 22 degrees on the 28th.

VENUS continues to dominate the western evening sky. A dazzling object visible for several hours after sunset, Venus reached its greatest elongation from the Sun of 47 degrees on November 6.

MARS is still visible low in the western evening sky. Easily identified by its reddish colouring.

JUPITER is a prominent object visible high in the sky in the evenings. Now past opposition, Jupiter is still a fine sight and an excellent subject for observation. Even a pair of binoculars reveals its four brightest moons.

SATURN reached opposition on October 10 and is visible all night, rising at sunset and setting at sunrise. Easily identified amongst the faint stars of Pisces, the planet is now at its best for observation. The Cassini spacecraft has started its long journey to Saturn, not arriving at its final destination until 2004.

The above information was adapted from the October/November 1997 issue of the Astronomical Society of Tasmania Bulletin.

Our Internet web site has recently undergone a major upgrade - Take a look

Internet: www.netspace.net.au/~tufoic

Email: tufoic@netspace.net.au

THE NIGHT A GIANT UFO BLOCKED OUT THE STARS

*From Daily Mail June
19 and The People of
June 22, Flying Saucer
review Vol 42, Summer
1997*

It was huge. So large that it blotted out the stars for more than a mile as it swooped silently over Arizona. Thousands saw it and dozens videotaped it. After months of investigation, computer analysis and talks with eyewitnesses, experts have been unable to come up with any earthly explanation for the sightings. (13/03/97)

The V-shaped formation of red and white lights passed over several towns at a steady 30-mph, covering a distance of 60 miles. Witnesses who included pilots, air-traffic controllers, doctors and lawyers said the object glided across the sky without sound, its height ranging from 500ft to several thousand feet.

The incident has captured the imagination of America like no UFO sighting in decades. It has revived memories of the Roswell incident of 50 years ago, when the supposed crash of a flying saucer in New Mexico was allegedly covered up by the authorities. Black and white film exists which purports to show autopsies on some of the aliens recovered at the scene.

Peter Davenport, of the National UFO Reporting Centre in Seattle, said the Arizona incident was the most dramatic in his experience. 'What we have here is the real thing. They are here,' he added. The files of the UFO Centre record that the first sighting came from a retired police officer in Paulden, 60 miles north of Phoenix. He reported a cluster of red lights heading south. The second call came from Prescott, 15 miles down the road. This time the report was of one red light and four white lights. Within minutes the centre's switchboard was jammed with calls from Wickenburg, Glendale, Phoenix, and Scottsdale.

Bill Grava, a pilot and air-traffic controller for 12 years, was on tower duty at Sky Harbor International Airport. He saw the UFO but it did not appear on radar. 'I have never seen anything like that,' he said. 'It was weird and inexplicable. I don't know what to think.'

Tim Ley, a 54-year-old management consultant, had just arrived home and parked his car in the drive when he saw the lights. 'They looked like gas,' he said. 'There was a distortion on the surface. Also, the light didn't spill out or shine. I have never seen a light like that.'

Truck driver Bill Greiner, 51, said: 'Before this, if anyone told me they saw a UFO, I would say "Oh yeah, and I believe in the tooth fairy". Now I've got a whole new view. I may be just a dumb truck driver, but I've seen something.'

A Company which designs computerised effects for Hollywood and supercomputers for the government examined the video tapes. They ran computer analysis of video footage and compared the lights to every other light in the Phoenix area. Nothing matched. The Luke Air Force Base between Phoenix and Glendale has been a target for hundreds of callers who assumed that the sighting was linked to the base. Officials denied it. Lieutenant Colonel Mike Hauser said many callers became angry and accused the Air Force of a cover-up. There were F-16 fighter jets in the air that night and one of the last sightings was near the base. Mr Greiner said he saw three of the jets take off and veer towards the object. 'Then it shot straight up and disappeared in the blink of an eye,' he said. 'Those pilots had to see it.' If they did the Air Force is lying.

***** Stop Press *****

Whilst the Newsletter has been under preparation a number of investigations are in progress on three recent cases. The first from Bronte Lagoon on September 22nd was of several lights in V formation that would change configuration into a line. The lights seen about midnight were in the eastern sky. Soon after on September 25th a report came from Reedy Marsh of a bright light hovering over a home, witnesses at differing locations are reported as watching the light move off to the south. Not far away on October 8th a Westbury farmer reported finding a burnt ring in one of his paddocks. The 70/80cm wide ring had a diameter of 4 to 5m.

Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre
PO Box 174, South Hobart, Tasmania, Australia, 7004.
Sightings Phone Number [03] 62236009, email: tufoic@netspace.net.au